

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) 738-4601
Fax: (213) 386-1297

August 12, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor
FROM: *Robin Kay for*
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE
SOURCE CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH EXODUS RECOVERY, INC.**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors' Policy Manual, Section 5.1000, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source Contract. It is the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to amend the Exodus Recovery, Inc. (Exodus Recovery) Urgent Care Center (UCC) Agreement to provide urgent care services for adolescents brought to the UCC at the initiation of DMH field response operations, including children and youth involved with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and other community agencies. The UCC is located at 1920 Marengo Street, 1st floor, Los Angeles, California 90033.

The Exodus Recovery UCC relieves overcrowding in the Los Angeles County University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) and the increasing demand for inpatient psychiatric services; provides 24/7 recovery-oriented outpatient psychiatric services for individuals in crisis who do not require hospitalization if stabilized with intensive outpatient services; promotes integrated treatment for mental health clients with co-occurring substance abuse disorders; and ensures integration with community-based resources in accordance with the DMH's Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Supports Plan.

Currently, adolescents in the care of DCFS who are experiencing psychiatric crisis and cannot be maintained in placement are often brought to the DCFS Command Post or emergency rooms, neither of which are equipped to provide the necessary psychiatric evaluation and stabilization. There is a critical need for 24/7 recovery-oriented psychiatric urgent care services for adolescents in crisis who do not require hospitalization and can be stabilized with intensive mental health services including assessment, crisis stabilization, medication support, and targeted case management to link them to intensive community services programs upon discharge. DMH field response teams are averaging approximately 100 field visits for DCFS youth per month. Many of these crises have escalated as a result of behavioral issues, including

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disagreements with caretakers, adverse outcomes from court proceedings, and the desire for another placement.

Exodus Recovery is uniquely qualified to provide these services as it has a wide range of experience in providing mental health services in Los Angeles County including acute inpatient services, substance abuse treatment, physician coverage for Institutions for Mental Disease, Assertive Community Treatment, and Full Service Partnerships. Exodus Recovery has successfully implemented Lanterman-Petris-Short designated UCCs on the Westside in December 2006 and Exodus Recovery UCC in collaboration with LAC+USC Medical Center in April 2010. These programs have been highly successful in serving adolescents, Transition Age Youth, adults, and older adults. With this experience, Exodus Recovery is well positioned to implement an innovative program to serve this population immediately upon execution of the amendment.

The provision of these urgent care services for DCFS involved children and youth is an integral addition to the comprehensive service array that has been developed in response to the Katie A. Settlement Agreement.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, DMH will proceed with preparing an amendment to Exodus Recovery's Agreement, working with County Counsel, DCFS, and the Chief Executive Office.

MJS:OC:GL:MM:mm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Chief Executive Officer
 Health Deputies
 Robin Kay, DMH
 County Counsel
 Contracts Development Administration Division, DMH